



Pink Shrimp Trawl Observer Project Vessel Manual

The purpose of this manual is to provide operators of Washington licensed pink shrimp trawl vessels the protocols and expectations they must meet to comply with Conditions 4 and 5 as listed on the Washington Ocean Shrimp Trawl Fishery Permit. These protocols are intended to ensure observer safety and their ability to carry out the sampling objectives of the Pink Shrimp-Eulachon Observer Project.

Washington Ocean Shrimp Trawl Fishery Permit

- 4. At the option of the Department, WDFW personnel must be allowed on board the vessel and given unimpeded access to observe fishing operations and/or collect biological data on the catch.*
- 5. Owners and/or operators of commercial shrimp trawl fishing vessels are required to follow protocols established by the Department for shrimp trawl research and monitoring programs.*

Safety

1. Vessels must have passed a USCG safety examination or inspection. This can requirement can be met by demonstrating the vessel has a current Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal, issued within the last 2 years.
2. Observers must not be requested or allowed to operator any mechanical equipment associated with fishing operations.
3. Vessels must maintain safe conditions on the vessel in adherence to USCG and other applicable rules.

Communications

4. Departure Notice: At least 24 hours (but not more than 36 hours) before departing on a pink shrimp fishing trip, all vessels must notify the Project Lead of the vessel's intended time of departure.
5. Weather Delay Notice: If a vessel anticipates a delayed departure of more than six hours from the original departure time, the vessel must provide an additional notice to the Project Lead.

Accommodations

6. An operator of a vessel required to carry an observer must provide:
 - a. Accommodations and food that are equivalent to those provided to the crew
 - b. A safe work area with adequate space for sampling gear
 - c. A secure area or means to stow sampling gear when not in use

Data Collection and Sampling

7. An operator of a vessel required to carry an observer must:
 - a. Provide access to vessel's navigation equipment on request to determine the vessel's position
 - b. Allow the observer's free and unobstructed access to the vessel's bridge, trawl or working decks, holding bins and processing areas
 - c. Notify the observer at least 15 minutes before shrimp are brought onboard
 - d. Allow observers to inspect and copy any state or Federal logbook maintained voluntarily or as required by regulation
 - e. Provide observers reasonable assistance to enable them to carry out their duties including:
 - i. measuring decks and holding bins
 - ii. carrying baskets
 - iii. collecting bycatch
 - iv. collecting biological data and samples
 - v. providing adequate and appropriate space for storage of biological samples
 - f. Not interfere with or bias the sampling procedures employed by the observer, tamper with or destroy biological samples or prohibit the sampler from carrying out their duties